

3–7 Grade ELA Lesson Plan

Chickenpox by Remy Lai

Grade Levels

3–7

Time

45–60 minutes

Common Core State Standards (CCSS ELA)

- **RL.3–7.1:** Ask and answer questions using evidence from the text.
 - **RL.3–7.2:** Determine the theme or central message.
 - **RL.3–7.3:** Describe how characters respond to challenges and how they change.
 - **RL.3–7.6:** Explain how a character's point of view influences events.
 - **RL.3–7.7:** Analyze how illustrations contribute to the story's meaning, tone, and mood.
 - **W.3–7.3:** Write narratives using descriptive details and clear event sequences.
 - **SL.3–7.1:** Participate effectively in collaborative discussions.
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Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Analyze Abby's character growth throughout the story.
 - Identify themes of family, responsibility, patience, and empathy.
 - Use both text and illustrations to support their thinking.
 - Reflect on family relationships through personal and creative writing.
 - Understand how graphic novels use visual storytelling to communicate emotions and humor.
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Essential Questions

- What responsibilities come with being an older sibling?
 - How can difficult situations bring families closer together?
 - What does it mean to show empathy and patience?
 - How do illustrations help tell a story?
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Materials

- *Chickenpox* by Remy Lai
 - Character Growth Graphic Organizer
 - Sticky Notes
 - Chart Paper
 - Writing Journals or Notebook Paper
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Vocabulary

- Responsibility
 - Empathy
 - Perspective
 - Conflict
 - Resolution
 - Patience
 - Family
 - Theme
 - Dialogue
 - Graphic novel
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Before Reading (10 minutes)

Activate Prior Knowledge

Ask students:

- What are some challenges of having brothers or sisters?
- Have you ever had to stay home because you were sick?
- What makes a family work well together during stressful times?
- How do responsibilities change as you get older?

Students complete a **Think-Pair-Share**, followed by a whole-class discussion.

During Reading (25 minutes)

Character Growth Tracker

Students record Abby's development throughout the story.

Event	Abby's Feelings	Evidence (Words & Pictures)	What Abby Learns
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Encourage students to notice:

- Facial expressions
- Humor in the illustrations
- Dialogue between siblings
- Abby's reactions
- Family interactions
- Visual details that reveal emotions

Class Discussion

Discuss:

1. What responsibilities does Abby have as the oldest sibling?
2. How do Abby's feelings about her siblings change?
3. How does the family solve problems together?
4. Which illustrations helped you understand Abby's emotions?
5. What lesson does Abby learn by the end of the story?

Mini-Lesson

Graphic Novels Tell Stories in Two Ways

Explain that readers should pay attention to both the **words** and the **illustrations**.

Graphic novel readers notice:

- Facial expressions
- Body language
- Panel size and layout
- Background details
- Dialogue
- Captions
- Visual humor
- Sound effects

Ask students to find one page where the illustrations tell part of the story without many words.

Collaborative Activity (10–15 minutes)

Family Problem Solvers

In small groups, students discuss:

- What would you do if your entire family had to stay home for two weeks?
- How could everyone help each other?
- What jobs could each family member do?

Groups create a chart titled:

"Working Together Makes Things Easier"

Share ideas with the class.

Writing Activity (20–25 minutes)

Writing Prompt

Families don't always agree, but they often help one another through difficult times. Write about a time when your family worked together to solve a problem, or imagine you are Abby during the two weeks your family is stuck at home with chickenpox. Describe the challenges you face, how everyone works together, and what you learn about responsibility, patience, and family by the end of the experience. Use descriptive details about your thoughts, feelings, and actions.

Extension Activities

Grades 3–4

Family Comic Strip

Create a four-panel comic showing:

- A family problem
- Everyone working together
- A funny moment
- A happy ending

Include speech bubbles and captions.

Grades 5–7

Character Reflection Essay

Write an essay explaining how Abby changes throughout the story.

Use evidence from both the text and illustrations.

Creative Activity

Design your own "Family Survival Guide."

Include:

- Five helpful tips
- Chore assignments
- Ways to stay positive
- Fun activities families can do together

Illustrate each page.

Assessment

Formative

- Class discussions
 - Character Growth Organizer
 - Group collaboration
 - Reading observations
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Summative Writing Rubric

Criteria	4	3	2	1
Ideas	Creative and detailed	Clear	Developing	Limited
Organization	Logical sequence	Mostly organized	Some organization	Difficult to follow
Text Evidence	Strong support	Some support	Minimal support	No evidence

Criteria	4	3	2	1
Conventions	Few errors	Some errors	Frequent errors	Many errors

Exit Ticket

Students answer one question:

- What did Abby learn about being a big sister?
- Which illustration best showed Abby's emotions?
- How did the family work together?
- What advice would you give Abby at the beginning of the story?

Differentiation

Support

- Sentence starters
- Graphic organizers
- Partner reading
- Teacher-guided discussion
- Visual vocabulary cards

Extension

- Compare Abby's relationship with her siblings to another sibling relationship from literature.
- Rewrite a chapter from one of Abby's younger siblings' point of view.
- Create an additional comic chapter showing what happens after everyone recovers.

Cross-Curricular Connections

Health: Discuss how illnesses spread and healthy habits that help prevent the spread of germs, while emphasizing empathy for people who are sick.

Art: Create a one-page comic that uses facial expressions and body language to show emotions without relying heavily on words.

SEL: Discuss how patience, empathy, and teamwork help families solve problems during stressful situations.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Connection

Students reflect on:

- Responsibility
- Empathy
- Patience
- Family relationships
- Cooperation
- Gratitude

Big Idea

Chickenpox reminds readers that family life isn't always easy, but love, patience, and teamwork help people overcome challenges together. Abby's journey shows that even frustrating moments can strengthen relationships and help us appreciate the important role each family member plays.